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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

Summary: Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies focused news coverage August 29 on Yeh Sheng-mao, the former Director of the Ministry of Justice's Investigation Bureau (MJIB), being indicted for concealing information about former President Chen Shui-bian's possible involvement in money laundering and the prosecutors' probe into the Chen family's money flow in Taiwan and overseas. The pro-independence "Liberty Times" continued alleging that AIT Chairman Raymond Burghardt had indeed said the "two noes" to Taiwan.

The newspaper ran a banner headline on page two that reads "Burghardt Mentioned the Two Noes; a Taiwan Official Stationed in the U.S. Was in Attendance on that Occasion." The report cited its sources, which said that the Taiwan official even made a record of Burghardt's remarks. The sources reportedly were puzzled why the Taiwan government denied that Burghardt had conveyed the "two noes" to Taiwan. Reflecting on Burghardt's alleged remarks, the "Liberty Times" also carried an editorial claiming that the United States and Japan must be very worried about Taiwan's leaning toward China. The editorial questioned and criticized how the Ma Ying-jeou Administration could feel so nonchalant about such concerns. End summary.

"Has the Ma Administration Heard the U.S. Concerns Regarding Taiwan's Sovereignty?

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 720,000] editorialized (8/29):

"... The Ma [Ying-jeou] Administration seems to be completely careless about the United States and Japan's doubts. Whether and the ease of regulations without limit in economics, or the elimination [of Taiwan's] sovereignty in politics, [Ma] has made Taiwan step into the quagmires that China has set. Therefore, [AIT Chairman] Raymond Burghardt made the words clearer. He [Burghardt] conveyed the United States' demands to the Ma Administration that there should be no hint that China has sovereignty over Taiwan. This undoubtedly is because the Ma Administration publicly recognizes the non-existent 1992 consensus and claims that 'Taiwan and the Mainland belong to one China.' [The Ma Administration] regards Chinese Taipei as the best name [for Taiwan] to participate in international organizations, which exactly put Taiwan's sovereignty under the level of China. Such a flagrant 'hint' that China has sovereignty is over Taiwan is equivalent to changing the status quo across the Taiwan Strait unilaterally. The United States definitely wanted to express its opposition.

"Second, the Ma Administration relies on China economically and is willing to be China's dependency politically. The so-called "diplomatic truce" delivers Taiwan's international space into China's hands. It is equivalent to concretely fulfilling [the claim] in the international community that China owns Taiwan's sovereignty, which encounters the United States' opposition. Days before, the Ma Administration, abandoning the bids for Taiwan to enter the UN or the Republic of China to return the UN, instead proposed that '23 million people's rights to have meaningful participation in UN specialized agencies should be respected.' Such a proposal, although [in it] not even the shadow of a sovereign

state can be detected, still encountered the opposition from China's delegation at the UN. As a result, what Ma Administration's policy of diplomatic truce got in return is that China wants more. Once such a vicious precedent is established, Taiwan's participation in the international community will have to be decided by China. Taiwan will become part of China, which is totally unacceptable to the United States. ...

"The United States or our people might be happy to see relations between Taiwan and China improve, or even see relations between the two countries [Taiwan and China] normalized. However, neither our people nor the United States would ever agree to let such relations 'Sinicize Taiwan's sovereignty.' The Ma Administration's so-called setting aside of controversies and [attempts at] diplomatic truces only achieve the objective effect that Taiwan's sovereignty is set aside and Taiwan's international space is delivered into China's hands. If we continue walking on 'Ma's roadmap,' in less than four year's time Taiwan will become a piece of meat in China's mouth. There will be a dramatic change to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait as well. Not only the United States but also the Taiwan people have seen this [scenario] clearly and as a result have set the theme of 'protecting [Taiwan's] sovereignty' as part of the three themes of the anti-Ma rally scheduled for August 30. If the Ma Administration does not rein in the horse at the edge of the precipice and acts arbitrarily, then domestically and internationally the Ma Administration will definitely become a rat crossing the street which everyone wants to hit."

WANG